

CASE STUDY: BOSTON (2003)

Boston is searching for strategies to create space permanently dedicated to artists.

Survey of 2,000 artists regarding space needs.

The survey:

- Quantified demand for artist space
- Documented artist interest in buying and renting space, as well as ability to pay for it.
- Articulated specific design elements and building features that artist space requires.

58% of artists desire work-only space

62% of artists desire live-work spaces

75% of artists desire large amounts of natural light in their work space

Also important are: high ceilings, special ventilation, additional storage, and soundproofing.

Artists prefer old, restored buildings, industrial buildings, or new construction.

Important features for artists in looking for space: public safety, access to public transit, opportunity to live and work near other artists.

Boston has a redevelopment authority as a logical vehicle to invest in artist space.

BRA's tools:

- Zoning: Artists can live in industrial zones
- Certification of artist credentials
- Design guidelines, such as minimum square feet for live/work.
- Database of artists
- Technical assistance.